

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 8166

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SUBJ: YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS: BREZHNEV VISIT

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1. YUGOSLAWS HAVE LIKE SOVIETS (REFTEL) HELD A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO STATE THEIR UNILATERAL VIEW OF BREZHNEV VISIT. UNDER TITO'S CHAIRMANSHIP, LEAGE OF COMMUNISTS PRESIDUM MET DEC 9 TO HEAR REPORT ON THE VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECRETARY GRICKOV. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING, AS REPORTED BY TANJUG, UNDERLINE YUGOSLAV-SOVIET DIFFERENCES, BUT ALSO DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS.

2. UNLIKE SOVIETS, PRESIDUM FAILS TO MENTION "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY" IN LIST OF PRINCIPLES FORMING BASIS OF MUTUAL RELATIONS. FOR YUGOSLAWS, KEY IDEAS ARE "STRICT RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERFERENCE, AS WELL RESPECT FOR THE DIFFERENT PATHS

OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION AND THE DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES."

3. REAFFIRMING BASIC YUGOSLAV POSITION, TANJUG REPORTS THAT PRESIDUM CONSIDERED BREZHNEV VISIT USEFUL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN "SOCIALIST, SELF-MANAGING AND NONALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA AND THE SOVIET UNION."

4. PRESIDUM NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES NEED NOT IMPEDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS, WHICH ARE "IN THE INTEREST OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PARTIES AS WELL AS IN THE INTEREST OF STRENGTHENING EQUAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PEACE AND SOCIALISM IN THE WORLD."

5. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FURTHER INDICATIONS OF WHAT WENT ON DURING THE BREZHNEV VISIT. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WORKING ON SOVIET AFFAIRS TOLD AUSTRIAN CHARGE THAT TITO GAVE THE SOVIETS AN ORAL SUMMARY OF THE YUGOSLAV SHIP LAW IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THEIR PUSHING THE ISSUE OF NAVAL ACCESS TO YUGOSLAV PORTS. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, THE ISSUE WAS NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER.

6. A YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SOUGHT THE INFORMATION OF SOVIET-YUGOSLAV FRIENDSHIP CLUBS BUT THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD TURNED DOWN THIS PROPOSAL. "WE ARE ONLY IN FAVOR OF CONTACTS WHICH WE CAN CONTROL", THE JOURNALIST SAID.

7. HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS ARE BY NO MEANS IMPEDED, HOWEVER. YUGOSLAV PRESS REPORTS THAT KOSYGIN HAS RECEIVED BERISLAV SEFER, HEAD OF YUGOSLAV SIDE OF MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION. VLADIMIR NOVIKOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, IS NOW PAYING A WORKING VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA - IN FACT A VACATION WE UNDERSTAND.

8. COMMENT: BOTH SIDES HAVE NOW ISSUED UNILATERAL "COMMUNIQUE" ABOUT THE BREZHNEV VISIT. THE STATEMENTS
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EMPHASIZE THE CONTINUING DISPARITY IN VIEWPOINTS, PARTICULARLY OVER THE RELEVANCE OF "INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY" FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
SILBERMAN

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